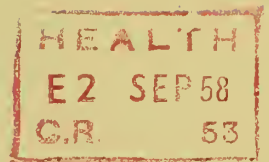


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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1957



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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1957)

D.H. Evans Chairman of the Council

F.M. Wilkes Vice-Chairman of the Council

Mrs. E.C. Powell

G. Bouston

J. Oliver

M.J. Peto, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.
Chairman of the Water Supply Committee

R.L. Price

R.A. Pullen

H. Robinson Chairman of the Highways, Buildings,
Public Health and Lighting Committee

G.T. Ross

F.J. Wall Chairman of the Finance and General
Purposes Committee

Clerk to the Council .. L.A. Flint

Medical Officer of Health

O.L. EVANS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(from 1.3.57)

Acting Medical Officer of Health

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin),
D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(from 1.1.57. to 28.2.57.
and from 18.6.57)

Public Health Inspector

A.A. MAXWELL, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell, Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1957 is presented herewith. It has been prepared jointly by the Public Health Inspector and myself. To our Public Health Inspector must go the credit for the major portion of the report, because, as even a cursory glance through its pages will show, it deals very largely with those aspects of the public health service of the Council that are within his province. As his work and that of the Medical Officer of Health are very closely inter-related, it is much better to have the report presented as a joint effort as we in the Bromyard Urban District have done during the past three years.

Members of the Council will not misunderstand me when I say that it is with regret that I find myself in the very unexpected position of having to present the report for 1957. My regret is due to the fact that that duty devolved upon me because of the serious illness of Dr. O.L. Evans, my colleague and successor. When I relinquished the office of Medical Officer of Health at the beginning of the year and introduced him to the Northern districts, none of us thought that within three months he would be stricken with Paralytic Poliomyelitis of such severity that his own resignation would ultimately become inevitable. That very unhappy event - his resignation - took place at the end of the year and a successor was subsequently appointed. Though the members of the Council and the officials have recently (1st May, 1958) welcomed Dr. G.D.K. Needham, the new Medical Officer of Health, very warmly, that welcome was saddened by the reflection that the youthful Dr. O.L. Evans, who endeared himself to all of us during our short period of co-operative work in the public health service of Herefordshire, was still confined to hospital because of extensive paralysis.

The outbreak of Poliomyelitis, which the illness of Dr. O.L. Evans, the first case in the County heralded, smouldered throughout the summer months. One case, non-paralytic in type, was notified and confirmed in our district. The urgency with which vaccination against Poliomyelitis is being proceeded with by the County Health Committee, through Dr. J.S. Cookson, the County Medical Officer, to the limit of the available supplies of vaccine, is heartening to parents within the district who are anxious to have their children protected before the commencement of the seasonal period of greatest risk. A substantial proportion of our children have

already been vaccinated, and it is expected that many more will be treated before the incidence again rises throughout the country.

Acute anxiety was felt by the Council over the prolonged and severe fall in the output of water from the springs on which the whole supply of the urban district depends. Emergency measures, involving the purification, at considerable expense, of water from a nearby brook, had to be taken; and it was only because of the availability of that water that a critical situation did not develop in the district. A complete failure of the springs seemed imminent at one time, and the situation that would have arisen in the Urban District had that happened, does not bear contemplation. The outcome of this near-catastrophe is that the Council is determined never again to be wholly dependent on the Buckenhill springs, but to proceed with the utmost expedition to the provision of a fixed purification plant for the water from the brook already referred to. Though there is the expectation that a County Water Board will be created during 1958, the Council cannot await action by that Board. The matter is much too urgent and vital for that, even though, at time of writing, the springs are again discharging water in excess of our daily needs.

I.F. MACKENZIE

Acting Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Population	1,700
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957) according to the Rate Books ..	576
Rateable Value	£16,877.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£73.12. 2d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) ..	20	8	12
(Illegitimate) ..	2	-	2
Total ..	<u>22</u>		
STILL BIRTHS	3	1	2
DEATHS	28	15	13
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	1	1	
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1957

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	12.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.1
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	120.0
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	22.4
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	16.5
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	45.4
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	23.0

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLY

The low winter rainfall again caused the water supply to be a serious problem, but the Water Committee and the Council realised that drastic steps had to be taken, so, during the year, filters were hired to treat the river water. This helped us over the difficult period.

The samples of the supply submitted for analysis have shown the quality to be satisfactory after filtration and chlorination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The danger of damage to the new sewage works through storm water has been diminished through the installation of a weir. During the past year no substantial degree of flooding arose. The problem of dealing with the sludge still continues.

Proposed New Sewage Works

The Consulting Engineers have completed their survey and prepared plans during the year. These have now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The increase of tins reported last year continues, as did the waste paper content of the refuse bins. Ashes and dust decreased, but vegetable matter and garden refuse showed an increase. In the latter case, householders were warned that the collection dealt with household and not garden refuse. Public litter bins were provided in the streets during the year, with noticeable benefit to the cleanliness of streets and pavements.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No significant changes have occurred during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The two slaughter houses have been conducted in a satisfactory manner. The statement of animals slaughtered is set out on page 7 of this report.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The efforts of the Operator produced the following results:-

Approximate kill:- at Refuse Tip....150
in sewers.....150
private houses....30

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	40	5	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosec- utions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	2	3	-	1	-
Sanitary Conven- iences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	3	-	1	-
TOTAL	4	7	-	3	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices served	...	74
Ditto complied with	...	62
Letters sent	...	108
Complaints received	...	20
Nuisances found	...	14

GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections	...	378
Total number of Re-inspections	...	301

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

DRAINAGE

New drainage installed	...	...	23
Repairs to existing drainage	...	...	10
Smoke and Water Tests	...	...	41

DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary inspections	...	...	154
Infectious disease	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	8

REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins	...	...	24
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	6
Tips	...	...	72
Rodent Control Surveys	...	...	30

WATER SUPPLIES

Inspection of Springs	...	...	48
Gauging	...	...	24
Testing Flow	...	...	24
Examination of Reservoirs	...	...	109

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Fairs, etc.,	...	...	3
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FOOD PREMISES

Grocers, Dairies, Cafes and Butcher's Shops	79
Bakchouses	18

HOUSING

New houses constructed:-

By Local Authority	...	20
By private persons	...	2

The provision of bungalows for old persons proceeded during the year. Eight one-bedroom and twelve 2-bedroom were constructed.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- 1 (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 41
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 123
- 2 Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation 19

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs .. 22
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of noticed:-
 - (a) By Owners 18
 - (b) By Local Authority Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) BAKEHOUSES

The five bakehouses in the area are regularly inspected and the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

(b) ICE-CREAM

All ice-cream in the area is pre-packed and no complaints have been received.

(c) FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

The co-operation of the trade in carrying out improvements, and in producing food under good hygienic conditions is to be commended.

(d) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The conditions existing in all the catering establishments in the area are of a high standard.

(e) STATEMENT OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

218 Bullocks	108 Heifers	1,601 Sheep & Lambs
103 Calves	314 Pigs	51 Cows

The total for the year was 2,395 carcasses. One butcher slaughtered for four shops in Birmingham. In 1956 3,311 animals were slaughtered, in 1955, 1,524; and in 1954, 1,355.

(f) MEAT FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND DESTROYED

812 lbs.	...	Tuberculosis.
101 lbs.	...	Septic Matritis.
140 lbs.	...	Oedema.
265 lbs.	...	Distomatosis.
14 lbs.	...	Melanosis.
100 lbs.	...	Cirrhosis.
102 lbs.	...	Excessive Bruising.

(g) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Cans of various foodstuffs numbering 512 in all, were examined and destroyed, the main defects being either blown or rusty tins.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	15-24	25 & over	
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	1	1	4	3	3	20	-	-	32
Acute Polio- myelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis:									
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1957 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year two new Pulmonary cases were notified and one Non-Pulmonary. One Pulmonary case moved into the district.

In the same period two persons left the district, both Pulmonary; and two recovered, one Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given overleaf have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (CONTINUED)

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year:-

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14		
Diphtheria	10	11	6	27	75
Whooping Cough	13	9	3	25	-

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year:-

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of child					Total	Revaccinations.
	Under 1	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
	16	-	1	1	2	20	2

Protection from Poliomyelitis

Vaccination is being carried out by the County Health Department in accordance with the rules of the Ministry of Health as to age groups, dosage, and so on. It is not practicable to maintain separate registers of children treated who reside in the Urban or in the neighbouring rural districts, so the total number of Bromyard Urban children protected is not available.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	3	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	2	3	5
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	-	2
Other heart disease	1	2	3
Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All causes	15	13	28

